REMARKS

Responsive to the requirement for restriction, applicant elects Group I, claims 1-11 and 30, drawn to an implant, with traverse.

The requirement cannot properly be repeated against the claims as now constituted, for the following reasons:

- 1. Claims 31 and 32 are linking claims, drawn to the implant but co-extensive in scope with the process claims.
- 2. The implant of claim 32 cannot be produced other than by the process of claim 12.
- 3. The process of claim 12 cannot produce an implant other than that of claim 32.
- 4. There is accordingly not even one-way distinctness between the groups of claims, much less two-way distinctness.
- 5. Separate classification is no evidence of the propriety of a requirement for restriction. Classification is solely for the convenience of the Patent Office and the searching public, and cannot diminish an applicant's rights in any way.

Accordingly, an action on the merits of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee of \$100 for the two extra claims of any type in excess of 20 added herewith, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

Docket No. 1504-1035 Appln. No. 10/724,096

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

Robert J. Patch, Reg. No. 17,355

745 South 23rd Street Arlington, VA 22202

Telephone (703) 521-2297

Telefax (703) 685-0573

(703) 979-4709

RJP/lk